IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account selected options, comprising:

describing a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method for making a product configuration, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product, said describing using a mass management module;

updating a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration, said definition being stored in a database and comprising an expression of rules and constraints; and

interactively and dynamically using said database during said configuration of the product.

Claim 2 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the method operations use:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module; and

an administration module; and

a mass management module.

Claim 4 (Original): A method according to claim 3,

wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical

objects each representing an aircraft function,

wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet

configurations of aircraft;

wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and

wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized

configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 5 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is

considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 3, wherein the contract

management module works in a ~~connected or~~ disconnected mode.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein a technical

object oriented configuration is used in which the product function and corresponding

implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by ~~at least one of~~ ATA chapter~~,~~

~~job category, or sales policy~~, the selection being made either individually or globally using a

global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same

functional domain.

Claim 8 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein a functional oriented

configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects,

specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the contract management module is configured to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using a knowledge management module.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using a contract management module.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using an administration module.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~16~~, wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from a contract management module.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A method to structure and manage a fleet of vehicles, comprising:

describing a plurality of sets of technical objects, each of said sets representing manufacturing options for a vehicle in said fleet, and each technical object either representing a vehicle function or describing an implementation method for making a vehicle configuration; and

updating, for each of said sets, a definition of each technical object and its inter-relations with other technical objects in that set, said definition being stored in a dynamic database and comprising an expression of rules and constraints.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises aircrafts.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises helicopters.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises automobiles.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 19, wherein the functions or implementation methods corresponding to the vehicles are selected individually or globally from a list of ATA chapter, job category, or sales policy.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

updating said fleet by adding or removing a vehicle; and

managing a plurality of fleets and updating the plurality of fleets when a vehicle is transferred from one fleet to another fleet.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the contract management module is further configured to update said fleet configurations by adding or removing an aircraft.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said industrial product is an aircraft.

Claim 26 (New): A method according to claim 7, wherein the list is further sorted by job category.

Claim 27 (New): A method according to claim 7, wherein the list is further sorted by sales policy.

Claim 28 (New): A method according to claim 7, wherein the list is further sorted by job category and sales policy.

Claim 29 (New): A method according to claim 22, wherein the list further includes job categories.

Claim 30 (New): A method according to claim 22, wherein the list further includes sales policies.

Claim 31 (New): A method according to claim 22, wherein the list further includes both job categories and sales policies.